

March 21, 1974

SENATOR MARVEL: Okay.

PRESIDENT: There you go.

SENATOR MARVEL: All right. We have, as I indicated the other day, we have established....

(End of Belt 7A)

(Begin Belt 8A)

In this amendment which is available to the Legislature and if adopted, still can be examined as this bill goes across the board. There's no attempt on the part of any member of the committee nor on any staff member working with the vocational rehabilitation to put into a straight jacket the rehabilitation department. I sat in on several meetings when Mr. Cartwright and his staff were brought in and these priorities were discussed. And I think that of the \$5.4 million, as I understand this formula, the priorities tie up \$2.6 million. There's still \$2.8 left to match and to serve other activities. Now, I think what Mr. Cartwright wants, which is the same thing that most agencies want, and that is a free hand to operate. This committee, Appropriations Committee, has visited a number of the projects the vocational rehabilitation participates in including those involved in the Penal Complex. And I think all we're trying to do here, working with this department, as we are with other departments, is to spell out priorities so that everybody, members of the Legislature and anyone else who is interested, can take a look at the way the priorities are listed. So that despite what Mr. Cartwright says, I do not think that this approach which reflects state priorities for vocational rehabilitation which requires both accountability and planning, I don't think these hamper his operation at all.

PRESIDENT: Senator Barnett.

SENATOR BARNETT: I have one more question for Senator Marvel then. It is your opinion then, and your staff's, that with these amendments and the way you prepared your budget, that the possibilities are still there to take care of the physically handicapped irregardless of what we hear. I mean, in other words, there should be no reduction in the rehabilitation of the physically handicapped. Is that what you're saying?

SENATOR MARVEL: That's what I'm saying and I'm....I'm to ...to reinforce this, I will point out that this particular amendment sets priority number one to provide services for the severely physically handicapped. That's the first priority...that they're interested in and this is the first priority in the amendment.

SENATOR BARNETT: And I think this is where they say they have a million dollar reduction in funds and so that's why they say they can't do it.

SENATOR MARVEL: Then we indicate and....the staff sat down and I think you were in...at least one of those meetings and I was in one of those meetings and they had full freedom to respond to this wording. There has been no attempt to try to put into language any thing that that particular department